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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 320. MAY, 1933.

SELF-REVERENCE. SELF-KNOWLEDGE. SELF-CONTROL.

"These three alone lead life to sovereign power."—TENNYSON.

RADEMON NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION, CROSSGAR, Co. DOWN.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Will be held on SUNDAY, MAY 21st, 1933, at 12-15 and 6-30 o'clock.

Preacher: Rev. W. H. TOWNLEY TILSON, M.A.

A Collection will be taken at each Service to assist in wiping out a Debt.

The presence and support of all friends of this old congregation are earnestly requested by the Minister and Committee.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BELFAST.

150th ANNIVERSARY OF PRESENT MEETING HOUSE.

JUNE CELEBRATIONS.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4th, 11-30 a.m. and 7 p.m.:

Rev. W. H. DRUMMOND, D.D., LL.D. (Oxford).

" " 11th, 11-30 a.m. and 6-45 p.m.:

Rev. H. J. ROSSINGTON, M.A., B.D. (Birmingham).

(Evening Service Broadcast by B.B.C.)

TUESDAY, JUNE 13th, **6-30** p.m. **CONVERSAZIONE in Carlton Restaurant.**

(ENTRANCE FROM FOUNTAIN STREET)

7-45 p.m. **PUBLIC MEETING in CARLTON HALL, Fountain St., Belfast.**

Speakers include—Rev. R. NICOL CROSS, chairman; The MODERATOR OF THE CHURCH (Rev. John Begg); Mrs. SYDNEY MARTINEAU, London; Rev. ALFRED HALL, M.A., B.D., Sheffield, President of General Assembly; Rev. H. J. ROSSINGTON, M.A., B.D., Birmingham.

Cards of Invitation, admitting to Conversazione, can be had from Mr. J. H. Gilliland, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast, or by giving your name to your Minister by Sunday, May 28th.

N.B.—THESE CARDS MUST BE HANDED UP AT ENTRANCE.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BELFAST.

150 Years of the Present Meeting-House: 1783—1933.

(1) Celebrations in June.

The Minister, Committee and Congregation of the First Church, Belfast, desire to extend a cordial invitation to friends in the City and Province to join with them in the celebration of 150 years of the present Meeting House, and in thanksgiving to God for this century and a half in the long and honourable history of the Mother Church of Presbyterianism in Belfast, which goes back as far as 1642 A.D.

The arrangements are as follows:

Sunday, June 4th, 11-30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Preacher, *Rev. W. H. Drummond, D.D., LL.D. (of Oxford).*

Sunday, June 11th, 11-30 a.m. and 6-45 p.m. *Rev. J. H. Rossington, M.A., B.D.* (Church of Messiah, Birmingham.) Evening service broadcast by B.B.C.

Tuesday, June 13th. *Conversazione at 6-30 p.m. and Public Meeting at 7-45 p.m.* in the Carlton Restaurant and Hall—entrance in Fountain Street. Speakers—Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A., chairman; Rev. Alfred Hall, M.A., B.D., President of the General Assembly; Mrs. Sydney Martineau, London; Rev, H. J. Rossington, M.A., B.D., Birmingham; Rev. John Begg, Moderator of Synod, etc.

Admission to the Conversazione will be by card, and our Ministers in the Province are asked to be so good as to send in advance to Mr. Gilliland, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast, a list of names and addresses of members of their congregations who desire to be present, and invitation cards gratis will be posted to these so that they may partake of refreshments. All the Ministers and their wives will also have cards sent to them, and we shall welcome their company on this historic occasion.

(2) 150th Anniversary Fund and its Purpose.

In connection with the event the congregation has raised within a year a *Fund of well over £600*, for which Mr. McRobert has acted as Hon. Treasurer, for repair and repointing of the external walls of the Church, interior re-decoration, installing an electrical apparatus for blowing the organ, and introducing radiators behind the organ. It is not to be wondered at that in the lapse of 150 years a number of the old bricks should have mouldered away and the mortar in places have become defective; that these have stood so long is a tribute to the quality of material and workmanship put into the fabric by our forefathers. In the present repairs and redecoration the Committee have had the expert advice of Mr. John Seeds, F.R.I.B.A., of Donegall Square, Belfast, who has also supervised the work carried out. The present congregation has risen to its duty on this occasion in the midst of very depressed industrial conditions, and it has to be congratulated on the conspicuous success of the Fund.

(3) Some Historical Notes.

A series of interesting articles in this Magazine from the pen of Mr. H. J. F. Orr, a member of the First Church with antiquarian tastes, has reminded readers of a number of distinguished families and personalities, clerical or lay, who have been connected with the congregation, notably the Bruce family, and to whom we to-day owe much for the inheritance into which we have entered. In the "Memorials of the First Church," the late Rev. Alexander Gordon pointed out that in the development of the city of Belfast, commercial, industrial, financial and educational, the personnel of the First Church played a conspicuous and decisive part. In the higher realms of culture and scholarship its succession of ministers has likewise established a long and honourable tradition, which is a precious possession perhaps less valued than it ought to be, and which therefore we may be in danger of losing. For in the long run a congregation gets or makes just the kind of ministry it appreciates and demands.

The present Meeting-House in Rosemary Street was first opened for the worship of God on the 1st of June, 1783, under the ministry of the Rev. James Crombie, D.D., who founded the Belfast Academy in 1786. It cost £1,923 7s. 9d. British currency. He

was followed by the Rev. William Bruce, D.D., in 1790, who also succeeded him as Principal of the Academy, and retired in 1831. His son, the Rev. William Bruce, A.B., became colleague in the pulpit in 1812, Professor of Latin and Greek in the Belfast Academical Institution in 1822, and retired in 1867. In 1832 the Rev. John Scott Porter was installed as assistant and successor to Dr. Bruce, became Professor of Theology in 1838, and of Hebrew in 1851, His "Principles of Textual Criticism," published in 1848, won more than local appreciation, a claim which can be made for very few North of Ireland theologians, for the Province has in modern times been singularly sterile in religious thinkers of note and influence beyond its borders. The religious democracy, so strong and vocal, has managed to strangle original and progressive thought for the most part. It had no use for heresy, and without heresy you cannot have originality or profundity. The name and fame of the late Rev. Alex. Gordon, M.A., who came to the pulpit in 1877, is still fresh among us. He was a true scholar.

It is worth noting that in 1790 a fine of 1/- was imposed on members of committee for non-attendance!

On the 25th May, 1830, the first meeting of the Remonstrant Synod of Ulster was held in this church. It was closed for about six months (October, 1832,—March, 1833) for the rebuilding of the frontage, the introduction of a hot water apparatus for heating, etc, at a cost of £681 3s. 0d. Gas for lighting was introduced in 1836.

A Sunday school was started in 1838, also a library, and a day school for girls. In 1839 came an evening school for boys, and in 1840 the school in Fountain Street. A new organ was erected in 1855, while 1862 saw the erection of the memorial window in the apse to commemorate 50 years of ministry by the Rev. William Bruce. The present organ was the generous gift of the late Miss W. Riddel.

Then in 1883 the Centennial was celebrated at a great gathering in the Ulster Hall, which eventuated in the raising of a large Fund for building the Central Hall, opened in January, 1886. It is a history of vigorous congregational life, more readiness than elsewhere, on the part of the majority at least, to take advantage of inventions and use them in the service of the Church, and of willingness to pay the price of consideration for the interests of the future as well as of the present.

The time has not come to write the history of the more recent past, which would involve reference to still living ministers and lay folk who have laid their special gifts and devotion on the altar of a Church which has now become hoary with generations of time and venerable with long gathered associations and sacred memories.

The glory of the past, however, will avail us nothing, it will be a cause of condemnation rather than a source of consolation, the reminder of a slow failure and decline, unless the ancient inspiration is poured, the ancient power bestowed, by the God of all light and life on us who to-day take upon ourselves the witness our fathers bore to Truth, Liberty and Religion, in the spirit of Jesus Christ, the great Heretic, Martyr, and Master, from whom we take our charter under God.

R. NICOL CROSS.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The Rev. Geo. J. Slipper has been ordered by the specialist whom he consulted to take an absolute rest for at least a month. Mr. Slipper has been unsparing in his devotion to the work of the Church, and though he has from time to time intimated that he would be glad to be relieved from some of the strain, yet his efficiency has made him such a valuable server that from year to year he has been appointed to various offices. There is a very deep and sincere feeling of sympathy in the Church with Mr. Slipper, and the hope of speedy restoration to health.

* * *

The attention of the many friends of the Rademon congregation is directed to the Advertisement appearing in our columns giving particulars of special Services to be held both Morning and Evening of the 21st May. It is hoped that there will be large congregations and the object for which the special Services are being held will be attained. No appeal to outsiders has been made by the Rademon Congregation for a period of 35 years, which of itself constitutes, a record, and the fact that the members have paid their own way during these many years entitles them to the support for which they are asking. As will be observed, their desire is to wipe out a debt which has been incurred.

* * *

Published on the **Fourth** Saturday of the month. Copy should be in before the **20th** at the latest. Editor: Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

1783.

One hundred and fifty years ago, Belfast comparatively speaking was a small country town, Carrickfergus ranking as the principal town and port of the county. The rapid strides Belfast has since made to obtain her present high mercantile station, is probably due more to the enterprize of her citizens, than to any natural advantages; and no small part in its commercial life is to the credit of members of the Non-Subscribing Church. Indeed in those days, it would seem that there was not a single industry in the town which had not one of our members interested in it.

Samples of Belfast Glassware are rare now-a-days but towards the end of the 18th century, close to the Short Strand, Ballymacarett, quite a quantity of Glassware was manufactured, sand being brought from the Glass Moss between Comber and Newtownards. Thomas McCabe, Thomas Gregg, Wm. Brown, James Stevenson, were some of our then members connected with the Factory.

The forerunner of the present Ropeworks was started in 1802 by James Mason with John Thompson and Cunningham Gregg as partners. In financial circles members of the First Church were prominent in greater proportion than of any other Church body. The Belfast Bank was popularly known 140 years ago as the "Bank of the Four Johns" John Hamilton, John Ewing, John Brown and John Holmes. The Northern Bank known as "Montgomery's" with Hugh and James Montgomery, James Orr and John Sloan. The Commercial Bank of 1809, had Wm. Tennant of Hercules St. (now Royal Av.) Robert Callwell, J. Cunningham and John Thomson of Jennymount. Then in commerce Currells, Batts, Andrews and Martin. To the latter the city is indebted for starting the Throne Hospital. The model village of Shrigley, Co. Down, was built by the Martin family. The memorial window in the First House is duplicated in the Parish Church of Killyleagh.

In the *Northern Whig*, 30th May, 1836, appeared a description of Belfast in 1771 which may help to picture the city at that distant date.

If one of the individuals who emigrated in the memorable year of 1771, were now to revisit our town, he would likely be more bewildered and astonished at the changes that have taken place, than Rip Van Winkle was on turning to his native village after his long sleep in the Kaatskill mountains. Like Rip he would find rows of houses which he never before had seen, strange names above the doors, everything strange. In vain would he seek for his old haunts, or for the fields that formed his boyish playground, in vain look for the Market House, for the remains of the ramparts, or for the arch of the Mill Gate entrance, which remained standing till near the close of the last century. If he was a good Protestant, he would likely proceed to High St. to offer up thanks for his safe arrival but he would pause at the portico of St. George's doubting if so beautiful a building could be raised from the ruins of the humble edifice, that in his recollection occupied the site.

Were he a Presbyterian he would remember that the only Meeting Houses in town were there in Rosemary Street and going thither, he would fruitlessly seek for a single feature in the present erections to recall the days of his childhood.

At the time he emigrated Belfast boasted of no Poor House, its foundation alone was only laid 1771, no Asylum for the aged or infirm, no Hospital, no Dispensary, no House of Industry, no College, Museum, or Commercial Buildings. In 1773 the Linen Hall was built, there were even no Bank, Docks or Shipyards.

The river in High Street was uncovered, and though the trees that formerly shaded its banks had disappeared, the rustic character of the town was to a certain extent preserved by the number of houses that still remained thatched. The air was untainted by the smoke from flax mills and cotton factories, the streets were uncrowded by groups of active merchants and intelligent mechanics, the entire population scarcely exceeding ten thousand.

At a period but shortly antecedent the river flowed from the Mill Dam along what now constitutes the north side of Castle Street, over the space occupied by the Bank Buildings. A number of stepping stones were placed between Hercules Place (Royal Av.) and Castle Street and the cautious passenger enabled to cross. The ground now occupied by Donegal Place and the adjacent square was laid out in gardens, Smithfield instead of its paved square and brick houses exhibited a green common. The sea washed over the Point fields and many a bather enjoyed a swim where Nelson Street now stands. Then High street shone in all the bustle of an English fair. Near Donegal Place were exhibited large sacks of wool. In the old Market House buyers and sellers of grain were intent on their avocations. A

the adjoining part of High St. vast quantities of shoes were exposed, across glazier's panniers and hung in various groups garnished with a display of sheep skin breeches. The pedlars' stalls extended in glittering array of beads, looking glasses, cutlery, and miscellaneous wares to Bridge St. Then came a countless hoard of besoms (brushes made of heather) and a goodly display of tinware with eggs and butter as far as Pottinger's Entry.

The Congregational Minutes of the First House begin in 1760, and in 1781 record the first steps taken with regard to the rebuilding of the Meeting House.

On Sunday 1st April 1781, the congregation resolved that the old building should be taken down. Its materials sold for £200 10s 9d. On Friday 1st June the foundation stone of the present building was laid and on Sunday 1st June, 1783, it was opened for public worship.

In the "Drennan Letters" No 53, Mrs. McTier writing to Dr. Drennan then in Newry—The meeting house is finished and meets with great admiration; but is not to be opened until Lord Donegall comes. There is still a large debt to which the Bishop of Derry very genteely and unasked sent £50. The Bishop happened to be riding past and was greatly pleased by the design so unusual.

One would like to picture the scene on that eventful Sunday, Rev. James Crombie, who two months later was to receive his Dr's degree from St. Andrews, standing at the door with his Session and Committeemen to welcome Lord Donegall, and prominent citizens including perhaps Stewart of Newtownards, the future Castlereagh, and the ladies of the town who so generously subscribed for the new pulpit, which to-day attracts the attention of visitors by its design and carved wood work.

(The sounding board now the top of table in the old vestry was removed in 1862).

What was the order of service or text of sermon we have no record of. There was no instrumental music in those days, the "Singing Clerk" gave the note, and the choir sang, if there was a choir, in unison, he giving the proper time, but more likely it was congregational singing such as one rarely hears in these later days. In an old hymn book used by Churches in the Antrim Presbytery a century and a quarter ago, we find such hymns as "O God our help in ages past" "Come said Jesus sacred voice" and "Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore him" perhaps one of these was sung, and that closing hymn which has been sung generation after generation "Lord dismiss us with thy blessing" A fitting hymn in that old collection had the verse

> These walls we to thy honour raise,
> Long may they echo to thy praise,
> And Thou descending fill the place
> With choicest tokens of thy grace.

However it is far more likely that Psalms were sung, and the new Paraphrases adopted in 1781.

The interior of the Church was very different in appearance from what we know it. Glass windows with small panes, white walls, plain doors, few if any cushioned pews, no heating arrangement, very uncomfortable compared to modern ideas, yet despite long sermons, large attentive congregations. In those far off days, sermons an hour long, were common. To-day if we get one over twenty minutes, we are apt to complain of its length.

The First House, Belfast, has been very fortunate in its choice of ministers, little is known of the first four, Baird, Shaw, Read and Keyes, but Patrick Adam and John McBride head a list of worthy ministers who in many ways added lustre to its history.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

The annual Sunday School Conference will be held on Saturday, 3rd June, at Moneyrea. The speaker this year will be Rev. Bertram Lister, M.A., secretary of the Sunday School Association, London. Mr. Lister is well known as an effective speaker and an expert in Sunday school work.

Moneyrea Meeting House is one of our old historic Churches, and its congregation has always played an important role in the life of our religious community. The building has been thoroughly renovated recently and it presents a most pleasing appearance. The Conference is assured of a cordial welcome from the congregation and the minister, the Rev. Dare Davies.

Competitors in the Essay Competition are reminded that all essays are to be in the hands of the convenor, the Rev. J. Glynne Davies, Comber, not later than Monday, 15th May.

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

"Thine eyes shall behold the King in his beauty: they shall behold the land of far distances."—Isa. xxxiii., 7.

ULSTER UNITARIAN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Success of the Postal Mission Movement

The annual meeting in connection with the Ulster Unitarian Christian Association was held in the Central Hall, Rosemary Street, Belfast, when Mrs. Blanche Hume, O.B.E., presided over a representative gathering.

The proceedings were opened with praise and prayer.

The fifty-seventh annual report was presented by the Rev. G. J. Slipper. It showed that the work of the Association had been well maintained, notwithstanding the depression in trade. The chief matter of interest was the revival of the Postal Mission, which some years ago was one of the most successful agencies in connection with the work. Through lack of funds this mission had to be given up, but they were hopeful that it might be found possible to continue it in the future.

Much of the success which had attended this revival was due to the Rev. P. Godding, who had undertaken the convenership, and was deeply interested in the work. To him they owed a deep debt of gratitude for what he had done and was doing. The Mission had become affiliated with the Central Postal Mission in London.

In connection with the Postal Mission a series of advertisements had appeared in the local and provincial papers, and owing to these announcements many inquiries for literature had been received. It was hoped that these would be continued, as already the efforts of the convener had resulted in a wide response from the general public. (Applause.)

Mrs. Hume, in moving the adoption of the report, said it was very good. She thanked those present for taking a deep interest in the Association.

Mr. W. T. Hill formally seconded, and the report was passed.

On the motion of Mr. C. J. McKisack, a vote of thanks was cordially passed to Rev. James McNeil, of Downpatrick, for his preaching the annual sermons in the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, on Sunday.

Mr. McNeil acknowledged the compliment and gave some interesting reminiscences, which were much appreciated.

Rev. John Barron speaking on the aims and objects of the Association said, that as an instance of the hostility to modernism, represented as "the poison of hell" an incident was given in an ultra orthodox magazine, published in Belfast. A lady missionary had witnessed blood sacrifices in connection with idolatrous worship in Africa, and speaking about them to a school-master, was horrified to find that he considered that much the same ideas had found their way into Christianity, and that the teaching so commonly quoted: "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins", was just on a par with the sacrifices the lady-missionary herself had witnessed. Then the article launches out on "contemning the blood of Christ," and goes over the old familiar ground of how in the sacrifices in the Jewish Temple, the vicarious atonement was foreshadowed and that even the very sacrifices of the African heathen were prototypes of the same thing. "The hireling fleeth when he seeth the wolf coming, but the Good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." He faces the ravening beast that would destroy the flock and does battle with it. He opposes the dark forces of evil, the narrowness, bigotry, hypocrisy that go by the name of religion, and pays the penalty with his life. The heroism of the martyr, supreme in Christ, breaks the rigid obstruction of the orthodoxy of the day and makes possible the declaration, —"after the way that men call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers."

The Rev. Dr. A. L. Agnew referred to the sensational orthodox preaching, going on nightly in the largest halls of Belfast, where people met hours before the time, even taking their sandwiches and flasks with them, to be in time. They were willing to sit for hours listening to the old crudities mistaken for religion; and what as an Association, were they doing in face of all this? True they had their Depository, and valuable work was being done there; but, a meeting such as he was addressing, with "the cream of our congregations" present, should be an occasion for eager and animated interest and enthusiasm, and ought to have been crowded to overflowing.

Rev. P. Godding outlined the work in connection with the Postal Mission, and said it had been very successful in attracting inquiries to Unitarianism.

Mr. Lewis Kovacs, Transylvanian Student, M.C.O., then addressed the meeting, and spoke of Unitarianism in his country, where it is one of the State Churches. Rev. J. Barron pronounced the benediction.

Subsidy Fund.—Contributions gratefully received by the Manager—Rev. G. J. Slipper, 7 Trevor Hill, Newry.

TRANSYLVANIA.

Mr. Lewis Kovacs, M.C.O., speaking at the York Street N.S.P. Fellowship on Sunday, 2nd April, stated that he was born in Hungary and therefore by birth was a Hungarian. After the Great War his part of the country was handed over to Roumania, but naturally his mother-tongue, his sympathies and higher feelings were Hungarian, and he would confine his remarks to Unitarianism in Transylvania. The Hungarians were related to the Finns, and came from the north in the 9th and 10th centuries, and settled in the territory of Hungary which was theirs until the Treaty of Trianon in 1922. They became Christians in 1001 A.D., and played an important part in defending Europe from being overwhelmed by the Turks. The 16th century is one of the most interesting in the world's history. Feudalism began to give way before capitalism, the revival of learning and the Reformation. Most important for Transylvania was the rise of the Free Christian idea in Poland, and the first Unitarian churches in Hungary. The Polish Unitarians were only called "anti-Trinitarian," because of government prohibition. Persecution compelled many to seek refuge in Holland and in Germany, but ultimately the greatest number of them settled in Transylvania. At the beginning of the Reformation Lutheranism spread rapidly among the Germans, who are Lutherans till to-day. Hungarians accepted the Calvinistic religion at first, but a few years later a great number of them became Unitarian. The founders of Unitarianism in Transylvania were Francis David and George Blandenata, the latter of whom was a physician of Italian origin, who came to the court of the first and last Unitarian King, John Sigismund. Francis David was originally a Roman Catholic, then a Lutheran, a Calvinist, and finally a Unitarian. With the exception of R.C., in every other of the religions he was a bishop. Under this, the first Unitarian Bishop, Unitarianism spread rapidly, with the result that at the end of the 16th century nearly all the Hungarians were Unitarians. In late years Roman Catholics and Calvinists joined forces to exterminate Unitarianism, and the persecution continued until the 19th century; but to-day there exist 120 well organised Unitarian churches. Since 1918 there has been severe hardship, the heritage of the Peace Treaty; the new social schemes with their methods of confiscation have made conditions difficult and miserable. In the name of the Hungarian Unitarians, I greet the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and say to you: the Hungarian Unitarians had to learn under sufferings and struggles to trust and to believe in one God. It was difficult to achieve and it is difficult to keep it under the present bad conditions, but our hope and trust are in the one God, and therefore we can never be destroyed.

OBITUARIES.

Miss A. M. Hanna.

Miss Anna May Hanna, who died on the 10th March, at the residence of her nephew, Tevenadara Cottage, Drumaness, in her 91st year, was attached to Clough Church during her long life and is remembered as one of the most faithful attenders, walking regularly five miles every Sabbath Day in all weathers. In reminiscent mood, She recalled one occasion walking through the snow on a wintry Sabbath Day to find that only the minister (Rev. W. Napier) was there, and with a merry twinkle in her eye, said that even "his riverence" himself had been in doubt whether he should come that morning. Up to the very end, she was actively attached to the church, and on hearing of the five years plan instituted by the minister sent the sum of £10 to the Secretary of the church as her contribution. The imterment took place at Clough on 13th March conducted by the minister, Rev. Jas. Shaw Brown, assisted by the Rev J. J. Magill, Rademon and the Rev. J. Dare Davies, Moneyrea.

William Miller, Glastry.

One by one, old links with the earlier years of Ballyhemlin are being removed. William Miller was baptised seventy six years ago at Ballyhemlin, and lived all his life in the old homestead at Ballyhalbert until failing health induced him to retire from his farming. He had a varied career, and changing times and modern inventions rather bewildered him. He had a great fund of native humour and was never at the loss for repartee. In early years he must have been thoroughly grounded in the Unitarian faith, for once being bantered as to what he could tell about it he came out with a surprising amount of ready information on the subject, and all in a very good humour. To live seventy six years in a congregation, is to have a memory of events and people, and to make links with places far and near. Two sons and a devoted daughter survive him, locally, and a son and daughter in America.

REPORTS.

Ballyhemlin—This year, 1933, is the centenary year of the Ballyhemlin Congregation. Next year will be that of the Meeting House. "The memorial addressed to the Banger Presbytery meeting in Ballee, asking for the appointment of a minister as it was the desire of the petitioners to form a congregation," was dated May 19th, 1833. The young people of the congregation are organizing a Sale of Work, to take place on July 13th, in the Orange Hall, Ballyhalbert, and help in any way from friends in other congregations will be gratefully accepted.

Crumlin—The worst attended annual meeting of the congregation for several years took place on March 20th. There were nine people present. Slight decreases in income from several sources were reported, but with activities and expenses kept at a minimum it has not been difficult to keep the credit balance around its usual level. This year we carry forward over thirty-eight pounds. The Renovation Fund very slowly improves, and the Envelope Contribution Scheme is successful as far as it goes.

Clough—Clough Presbyterian Non-Subscribing Sunday school's annual social reunion was held on the 17th March. A large company was served with a generous tea. Rev. James Shaw Brown, chairman, having spoken of the successful year's work, and the growing numbers attending the school, Mrs. Wilson, of Ballylough, assisted by her little daughter, distributed the prizes, consisting of 43 books, five being extra prizes for those who had not missed a single attendance. Miss Mollie Hay, Miss Vera Nelson, and Miss Fisher had prepared a long and interesting programme by the children, as follows:—Dialogues: Opening, 'Welcome'; 'The Days of the Week,' seven scholars; 'England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales,' scholars; closing 'Good-bye,' scholars. Duologue: Stanley and Cyreno Nelson. Recitations: 'When I'm a Man,' Cyreno Nelson; 'Grandpapa's Spectacles,' 'The Fairies,' and 'Mary Ann,' Betty Davies; 'Our Baby,, Susie Casement; 'A Hen's Sad Story,' Mary McCoubrey. Flute and drum selections: Willie and Jackie Kennedy. Songs: 'Mother Machree' and 'Love's Old Sweet Song,' Miss Ferguson; 'Grey Eyes,' Miss Maffett; 'Silver Threads' and 'Daddy's Sweetheart,' Madge Kirkpatrick; 'Coming Thro' the Rye' and 'Lilac Tree,' Georgina Kirkpatrick; 'Two Lovely Black Eyes,' Matthew Kirkpatrick; 'Cockels and Mussels,' Robert Kirkpatrick; 'The Cobbler,, George Hughes. Duet: 'Two Little Pigs,' Stanley and Cyreno Nelson. Quartette: 'Watching for Pa,' scholars. Hearty thanks were given to all those who had helped to make the evening a success, and especially to the kirk session of the Presbyterian Church for the use of the hall, moved by Mr. A. Donnan, seconded by Mr. H. Shaw, and supported by Mr. H. M. Ferguson.

Moneyrea—The members of the Dramatic Society performed Mr. George Shiel's famous comedy—"The New Gossoon", on Friday and Saturday evenings, the 24th and 25th February, in the Lyttle Memorial School, which was kindly lent by Mr. H. Frame. In spite of the blizzard which seriously affected the first night's attendance, some 60 people were brave enough to venture forth to witness the performance, and were well rewarded for their courage, whereas on Saturday night, the building was crowded out and the comedy was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience from begining to end, judging by the frequent applauding. The actors on both nights played their respective parts "true to life"; Everyone of them deserved the highest praise for work so well done. Each night, when the performance was over, the players were entertained to a sumptuous supper by the members of the local branch of the Women's League, and they are sincerely grateful to the ladies for their great kindness. The cast was as follows—Ellen Cary, a widow, Miss Robina Kennedy; Luke Cary, her son, Mr. James Maxwell; Peter Cary, a farmer, Mr. Edward Fisher; Ned Shay, a servant man, Mr. Tom McCauley; Mag Kehoe, a servant girl, Miss M. Strain; Rabit Hamil, a poacher, Mr. Frank Maxwell; Sally Hamil, his daughter, Miss M. Hogg; John Henly, a cornmiller, Mr. Albert Fisher; Biddy Henly, his daughter, Miss M. McFarland.

Downpatrick—Downpatrick First Presbyterian Non-Subscribing Church's reunion in the Assembly Hall on Thursday, March 23rd, was very well attended. Sunday-school book prizes were awarded by Mrs. McNeil as follows:—Willie McMullan, Willie Ferris, Bob Hutton, Milton Hutton, Eric Hutton, Tom McMullan, Russell Croskery, Tommie Law, Collie Law, Gordon Strain, Jack Corry, Jack Hutton, Bob Lowry, Willie Nesbitt, Sam Nesbitt, Tom Ferris, John Ferris,

Robert Ferris, Albert Killops, Sam Lowery, Robert Law, Leslie McMullan, Tom Hutton, Betty Henry, Ann Croskery, Mabel Corry, Molly Patterson, Jeanie Patterson, Ella Hughes, Mabel Black, Winnie Moffatt, Jean Moffatt, Molly Moffatt, Mary Nesbitt, Eunice Nesbitt, Maggie Ferris, Lelia Killops, Hila McMullon, Molly Dick, Rita Dick, Olive Dick, Meta Hutton, Maggie Ferris, May Ferris, Dolly Corry. Special prizes generously given by Miss R. Cochrane for best attendance at church during the year, won by May Ferris. An enjoyable programme included recitations by Miss Mildred and Master Harold McCafferty, of Belfast; songs tastefully rendered by Miss McMurray and Miss Pratt; trios by Misses Robinson, Kennedy, and Newman, from Rosemary-street, Belfast; pianoforte duet by Mrs. J. McBride and Miss Dickson; and pianoforte solo by Miss Marie Henry. Mrs. J. McBride and Miss Jean Newman were the accompanists. A vote of thanks to the tea-makers, artistes, and all who assisted in the success of the evening was proposed by Mr. C. Stewart and seconded by Mr. J. Newman. The singing of the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close.

Mountpottinger—The annual concert in aid of the Choir Funds was held on Thursday, April 13th, when a good audience was present. Songs were contributed by Mrs. J. Allen, Miss A. Smythe, and Mr. P. Morris whilst Duets in costume were given by Misses Douglas and Shanks. Mr. T. Reynolds kept the audience in good temper by his humorous songs and patter. Mr. H. Shepherd played the accompaniments in his customary efficient manner. Miss B. Moore gave due evidence of her powers as an elocutionist. The sketch entitled "An unexpected Entertain ment" proved a popular item on the programme, the parts being sustained by Mrs. Linton, Misses E. Beattie, M. Doyle, B. McMinn, V. Martin, and B. Moore. A word of praise must be given to Mr. L. Watters, Choir Secretary, who not only carried out the arrangements for the concert as a whole in a highly efficient manner but also acted as producer for the sketch, which was presented in a manner that spoke of careful coaching.

Moneyrea—The Minstrel Troupe gave a splendid concert in the Old School on the 8th April. The programme included plantation and popular songs, racy dialogue, and clever gymnastic displays. The Syncopators Band appeared for the first time, with a selection of popular dance music, and they did remarkably well. Messrs. G. Doyle and S. Girvan and nephew gave a wonderful show as gymnasts, who were loudly applauded all through their performance. The members of the Troupe deserve the highest praise, not only for their own entertainment, but also for the ready assistance which they gave the Day School and the Church during the last two winters. The members of the Troupe are—Messrs. G. Doyle, J. McBriar, G. Garrett, R. McCartney, R. Smith, Bob Hill, S. Hogg, B. Miskelly, S. Girvan, L. Boyle. Accompanist, Miss M. Doyle. At the close of the performance the Troupe were entertained to a sumptuous supper by Mrs. R. Dugan, Mrs. Davies, and Miss Doyle. The proceeds were in aid of Church Funds.

Hollywood—A goodly gathering of the members of the First Presbyterian Church spent a pleasant evening together on March 16th. The occasion was the annual congregational social. The ladies provided the tea, and afterwards music and competition were enjoyed. Songs were sung by Miss Peggy Shannon, Mr. James Shannon, jun., and Mr. T. Purdy, and a pianoforte solo was given by Miss Betty Patterson.

THE SYNOD.

The Synod of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland will meet at First Church, Rosemary Street, Belfast, on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 20th and 21st, 1933.

On the afternoon of the 20th, the Remonstrant Synod of Ulster meets, and on the 21st the General Synod.

The Programme will be published in the June number.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The annual meeting of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches will be held May 1—5, 1933, in London.

Stanhope St. Domestic Mission, Belfast.

The Annual Flower Service will be held, Sunday May 28th. Gifts of flowers will be thankfully received and it is hoped friends of the Mission will note the date because it is intended to commemorate the 80th anniver-easy of the Mission at these services.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

Newry—A successful Jumble Sale was organised by the Newry Branch of the League. It was held on Saturday, April 1st. The proceeds were added to the fund which is being raised for the purpose of installing Electric Light in the Church and School.

The Association of Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterian and other Free Christians, met on Tuesday April 18th, at 3 p.m. The usual routine was followed, the principal item being that of the Orphan Society, whose report showed that during the year grants totalling £346 10s. 0d. had been made to orphans.

The Country's Faith.

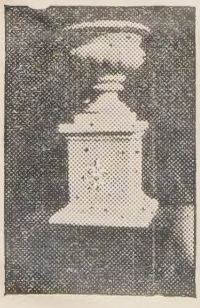
Here in the country's heart,
Where the grass is green,
Life is the same sweet life
As it ere hath been.

Trust in a God still lives,
And the bell at morn,
Floats with a thought of God
O'er the rising corn.

God comes down in the rain,
And the crop grows tall—
This is the country's faith
And the best of all.

DEATH.

Miller—March 25th, 1933, at his residence, Glastry, Kirkcubbin, William Miller. Interred in the family burying-ground, Ballyhalbert.



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